Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A digital data storage and transmitting device comprising:

a controller configured and arranged so as to control the operation of the digital data storage and transmitting device and functionalities thereof;

a storage medium;

an I/O mechanism configured and arranged so as to operably connect the storage medium and a data output of an image capturing device;

a first transmitting apparatus operably connected to the storage medium; ~~and~~

wherein the controller controls the downloading of digitized image data from the image capturing device via the I/O mechanism and storage of said data in the device storage medium, and controls the transmission of the stored downloaded data from the device storage medium via the transmitting apparatus to another storage medium serviced by a server remote from the digital data storage and transmitting device;

wherein the image capturing device is fixed and includes a third transmitting apparatus that embodies wireless communication protocols and techniques, where the image capturing device transmits acquired digitized image data via the third transmitting apparatus after completion of an image acquisition cycle;

wherein the digital data storage and transmitting device includes a fourth transmitting apparatus and is moveable so as to pass through the viewing area of the image capturing device; and

wherein the controller includes a microprocessor and an applications program for execution on the microprocessor, the applications program including instructions and criteria for:

downloading digitized image data from the image capturing device via the I/O mechanism,

outputting a signal from the fourth transmitting apparatus when in a viewing area of the image capturing device so as to cause the image capturing device to begin to acquire image data,

receiving the digitized image data being wirelessly transmitted from the image capturing device,

processing the downloaded , received digitized data so that it is stored in the device storage medium, and

transmitting the stored data from the device storage medium to the another storage medium.

2. (Original) The digital data storage and transmitting device of claim 1, wherein the device storage medium comprises a non-volatile type of storage medium.

3. (Original) The digital data storage and transmitting device of claim 2, wherein the non-volatile type of storage medium comprises one of flash memory, spindle memory, a non-volatile type of random access memory or a hard drive.

4. (Currently Amended) The digital data storage and transmitting device of claim 1, wherein the first transmitting ~~apparatus mechanism~~ embodies wireless communication protocols and techniques.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The digital data storage and transmitting device of ~~claim 5~~ claim 1, wherein the applications program further includes instructions and criteria for:

establishing a communications link between the image capturing device and the microprocessor before the downloading of data; and

establishing a communications link between the microprocessor and the remote server.

7. (Original) The digital data storage and transmitting device of claim 6, wherein the applications program further includes instructions and criteria for:

converting the digitized data to be transmitted into the appropriate format for transmission; and

encrypting the transmission.

8. (Original) The digital data storage and transmitting device of claim 1, wherein the I/O mechanism comprises a port configured and arranged so as to be compatible with a particular communications protocol and technique used to communicate the digitized data from the image capturing device and the device storage medium.

9. (Currently Amended) The digital data storage and transmitting device of claim 1, wherein the I/O mechanism includes a second transmitting apparatus ~~mechanism~~ that embodies wireless communication protocols and techniques.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) An image capturing and storage system comprising:

an image capturing device that includes a third transmitting apparatus that embodies wireless communication protocols and techniques;

a digital data storage and transmitting device that is moveable so as to pass through a viewing area of the image capturing device;

a server including a storage medium;

a first communications link removable interconnecting the image capturing device and the digital storage and transmitting device, where the first communications link includes the third transmitting apparatus of the image capturing device;

a second communications link interconnecting the digital data storage and transmitting device and the server; and

wherein the digital data storage and transmitting device comprises:

a controller configured and arranged so as to control the operation of the digital data storage and transmitting device and functionalities thereof,

a storage medium;

an I/O mechanism configured and arranged so as to operably connect the storage medium to the first communications link;

a first transmitting apparatus operably connected to the storage medium; and

a fourth transmitting apparatus;

wherein the controller controls the downloading of digitized image data from the image capturing device via the I/O mechanism and storage of said data in the device storage medium, and controls the transmission of the stored downloaded data from the device storage medium via the first transmitting apparatus to the server storage medium; and

wherein the controller includes a microprocessor and an applications program for execution on the microprocessor, the applications program including instructions and criteria for:

outputting a signal from the fourth transmitting apparatus when in a viewing area of the image capturing device so as to cause the image capturing device to begin to acquire image data,

downloading and receiving digitized image data from the image capturing device via the first communications link and the I/O mechanism,

processing the downloaded, received digitized data so that it is stored in the device storage medium, and

transmitting the stored data from the device storage medium to the server over the second communications link.

12. (Original) The image capturing and storage system of claim 11, wherein the device storage medium comprises a non-volatile type of storage medium, the non-volatile type of storage medium comprising one of flash memory, spindle memory, a non-volatile type of random access memory or a hard drive.

13. (Currently Amended) The image capturing and storage system of ~~claim 1~~ claim 11, wherein the ~~first communications link and the~~ device I/O mechanism embodies wireless communication protocols and techniques.

14. (Original) The image capturing and storage system of claim 11, wherein a portion of the second communications link and the device transmitting mechanism embodies wireless communication protocols and techniques.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The image capturing and storage system of claim 11, wherein another portion of the second communications link comprises a network infrastructure embodying of at least one of a wired or wireless protocol/ technique.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for capturing images using an image capturing device and storing the captured images at a remote storage location, the image capturing device including a third transmitting mechanism that embodies wireless communication protocols and

techniques, where the image capturing device transmits acquired image data via the third transmitting device, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a digital data storage and transmitting device including:

a controller configured and arranged so as to control the operation of the digital data storage and transmitting device and functionalities thereof,

a storage medium,

an I/O mechanism configured and arranged so as to operably connect the storage medium to the image capturing device, and

a first transmitting apparatus operably connected to the storage medium ;

a fourth transmitting apparatus;

(b) outputting a signal from the fourth transmitting apparatus when digital data storage and transmitting device is in a viewing area of the image capturing device so as to cause the image capturing device to begin to acquire image data,

(c) downloading digitized image data from the image capturing device via the I/O mechanism;

(d) receiving the digitized image data being wirelessly transmitted from the image capturing device;

(e) processing the downloaded, received digitized data and storing said downloaded data in the device storage medium; and

transmitting the stored downloaded data from the device storage medium via the first transmitting apparatus to a the server storage medium at the remote storage location.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 further comprising the steps of:

providing a server at the remote storage location that is operably coupled to the remote location storage;

establishing a first communications link removable interconnecting the image capturing device and the digital storage and transmitting device; and

establishing a second communications link interconnecting the digital data storage and transmitting device and the server.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein ~~one of the first communications link embodies wireless communication protocols and techniques or~~ a portion of the second communications link embodies wireless communication protocols and techniques.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein another portion of the second communications link comprises a network infrastructure embodying of at least one of a wired or wireless protocol/ technique.